

Antichrist's Government

Justly Detected

Of *Unrighteousness, Injustice, Unreasonableness, Oppression, and Cruelty;*

Throughout the

KINGDOMES

OF THIS

WORLD;

Wherein *Antichrist* hath had his Seat
and great *Authority* for many Generations, in the *Apostacy* from the Spirit and life of true Christianity.

Shewed and declared,

First, In the Case of *Imposing* upon *Conscience* in matters Religious, by force of outward *Violence*, or *Pains and Penalties* on the *Persons and Estates* of men, which is proved *unrighteous and dangerous*, and of *Antichrist*, &c.

Secondly, In the Case of *Heresie*; shewing what it is in itself, who a *Heretick* is, who are the true *Judges* of it, and what *Punishment* pertains to such as are truly convicted thereof; and, That to *Kill, Burn, Banish*, or to punish *Hereticks* (as such) *Corporally*, is of *Antichrist*, &c.

By EDWARD BURROUGHS.

LONDON, Printed for *John Wilson*, 1644.

Antiquities of the Kingdom of Scotland

By James MacGibbon, Esq. Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND

WARRIORS

Warrior's Monument, near the ruins of the Castle of Edinburgh.

By James MacGibbon, Esq. Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

The following is a list of the names of the Warriors who were buried in the Warrior's Monument, near the ruins of the Castle of Edinburgh, in the year 1570.

James MacGibbon, Esq. Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

BY JAMES MACGIBBON, ESQ.

EDINBURGH: Printed by James MacGibbon, Esq. Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

THE
EPISTLE
DEDICATED

To all the Rulers (of what degree soever) in the (so called)
(*Christian World.*)

O Friends! In the perfect Love of God Almighty towards your Souls and Bodies; and towards all Mankind; which Love is as a Fountain opened in my heart, & kindly issueth forth in Soul-breathing-desires of good, unto the whole Creation. In this Love (joined with an humble, meek and lowly temper of spirit) do I present this little quantity of substance unto you; not so much for your approof of my Work, as if I craved your License and Approbation for this small Piece to pass under your justification, (as is usually the manner of such Epistles thus directed;) but much more, for your serious and weighty considerations of the Cases (though briefly, yet truly) unfolded, which are things of very great moment to you; and wherein All of you, from the least to the greatest, are less or more concerned: And I do present this Work unto you as wholesome Advice, and good Counsel for you, (which ye ought verily to read and receive as such) rather then to flatter you by begging a Passe-port from you, that this may be read and received where it shall come; for the truth and verity of it, the weight of the matter contained, and the soundness of substance demonstrated, shall plead its own worth for acceptation in the Hearts and Consciences of all sincere men. *The Truth and Verity, Weight and Substance of*
A 2 Mat

Matter: I say; These Terms I may justly present this small Piece under the denomination of, unto you, and all the world. True it is, I do not study pleasing Style, nor have I endeavoured to clothe and trim the Matter with flattery, curious tearms, words of man's wisdom, or some rare Method, that it might appear more in shew, than in real substance, (as the way of too many Writers hath been in such cases;) nor do I promise to please the Worldly Wisdom in men, by a delightful sound, so much as to answer the sincere Consciences of men by sound Truths, declared more in homely, broken tearms of speech, than in the rarity of Phrase, or well-compact-ed Rhetorick; For I have always desired to be known and approved of God, and those that fear him, in sincerity, humility, and plain-right truth; and for this I study daily, and labour always, even to have praise, peace and comfort of God, rather than men, in what I am, and in what I do; and therefore 'tis my desire that ye would look beyond the Method containing, to the Matter contained, and that your eye may be onely fixed on the Substance intended, which is verily, and in truth, That ye may be informed the way of your peace and happiness in this world, and in that which is to come; and may never hereafter impose by force and violence in the matters of Faith, and the Worship of God, upon the Consciences of any, through penalties and punishments upon mens Persons and Estates, but that ye may allow and tolerate freely, Liberty of Conscience in all Religious Matters, and may not by cruelty destroy men in their Persons or Estates, upon the account of their being supposed to be, or if really Hereticks, and because of difference in Judgement and Practise, in Spiritual Matters.

These are the particulars (for substance) held forth unto you, and all the world; and I have judged it most proper to direct these Cases to your view and consideration, as being the persons most chiefly (though not wholly) concerned: herefore blame me not, but rather receive my Love, though but little in quantity, yet real in quality, and that ye will find one day, when ye have truly tried the effects of the two Cases plainly laid before you, which are, Imposition upon Conscience, and, Free Liberty of Conscience; These are the two Causes which will have their contrary and different effects upon all the Rulers in the world; Peace, Blessings, Prosperity and Happiness, are the effects of the one Cause, and Wars, Tribulations,

lations, Contentions, Misery, Sorrow and the Curse, are the effects which have, and will unavoidably follow the other Cause; and this ye will all find in the experience of Time and Transactions, coming to pass in the world: And therefore I cannot but (in homely, plain words, as my manner is) assert the Causes, and the effects of the Causes, unto you, again and again, for the very end, to inform you, advise you, and warn you to follow the Good, and to forsake the Evil, to do the right, and hate the wrong, that the effects of Righteousness, and Liberty of Conscience, even Peace, Love, Mercy and Prosperity, may ever be with you; and the effects of Cruelty and Oppression, and Imposition upon Conscience, which will be your misery, downfall and destruction (if ye continue in the Cause which works this Effect) may be turned away, and ye delivered.

Wherefore O ye men, be advised, be warned; this is the day of the Lords dawns; We have seen his Power and Glory; he hath wounded us, and healed us, he hath killed and made alive; he hath proclaimed Liberty in Our Souls and Consciences, from Death and Darkness, from the Grave and Hell; and he hath set his People free from bondage, to serve him with a pure and perfect heart; and if ye (mortal men, made of the dust of the ground, whose little measure of breath is in your Nostrils) will not approve of, and join with this blessed Work of the Lord, but shall gain-say his doings, and set your Power against his Power, and will not let the People go free in the exercise of their Consciences on holy performances, whose Consciences God hath made free; then shall the Most High reward your opposition with his Cup of Vengeance, and he will make you know he is the Lord against whom ye thus raise contention; and he will dissolve your substance, and bring down your glory, and subdue your power, if that (I say) ye oppose his Work, and will seek to bind and limit his Spirit in his people, and will yet force and impose upon Conscience by outward violence, and kill, and persecute unto death, and banishment for matter of Conscience, and because of difference in Judgement in spiritual things; then thus it shall be done unto you, Ye shall fall, and perish, and be troubled, and blessings and prosperity shall not be unto you. If it be not thus, the Lord hath not spoken by me.

Well Friends, even all ye that have Authority and Power in the Government of this World, are nearly concern'd to take special notice of these things presented unto you, seeing the Effects of these two Causes are both very weighty, and infallibly certain, even to you-wards.

wards particularly: Very weighty, because Peace, Prosperity and Happiness, or Misery, Distractions and Downfall to you is depending upon the Effects of the Causes; Infallibly certain, because the Justice of God Almighty is such, that he must bring reward upon all according to their deeds, and his Justice cannot be diverted: But if ye permit free Liberty of Conscience in the exercise of godliness in Faith and Worship, unto all people under your Power, then shall Peace and Prosperity be unto you, according to the purpose of God: But if ye impose upon Conscience in any wise, by force in Religious matters, & will not be instructed and advised to the contrary, then shall misery and destruction certainly be unto you, according to the Justice of God's Vengeance. These things are so, as a Servant of God I present them to you, and not upon fiction or fancy, but as I have received them from the Lord God, by his Spirit, which signifies the verity and certainty of these things in my soul.

Friends, Doubt not of these things; for verily the time is at hand, and it must surely come to pass, my Spirit shall see it, and rejoice therein, if in this body I may not behold it, That imposing and forcing of Conscience by Laws and Ordinances of Men, upon penalties on mens Persons and Estates, in Religious matters, shall be expunged, subdued and abandoned in these Nations & Kingdoms of the world, and it shall be no more: But Liberty, Liberty shall be re-planted, embraced and renowned amongst men, and Truth and Righteousness, Mercy and Peace, True Liberty and Freedom, Justice and true Judgement, with all the Causes and Effects thereof shall flourish, and grow, and prosper on the Earth, and the contrary shall fall, and rise no more. This Day is drawing nigh, it's at the door, blessed are they that are prepared for it: Wherefore let all flesh hear and fear, bow and tremble; and let the hearts of the Righteous rejoice and be exceeding glad; let all the upright in heart put on the garment of Praises and Deliverance; for the Day is at hand, that Antichrist (with all his Strength and Power, Force and Policy) shall be a hissing, and reproach, and shame, and contempt unto the Saints of the Most High, and amongst whom the Lord God Omnipotent doth, and must Reign and Rule in Dominion, and Glory, and Power, ever All, for ever, and evermore.

London this 12th.
Month, 1661.

E. B.

CHAP. I.

Concerning imposing Religion; the Case stated, and the unrighteousness thereof shewed, with the danger thereof also made appear by manifest proofs.

Presented to the RULERS and PEOPLE of our present Age, throughout the World.

TO impose any kind of Religion, any way of Worship, or forms of Faith, and outward conformity, in any practices of duty to God-wards, by an External Authority of men, through force of Laws commanding and requiring such conformity in Faith and Worship, upon pains, penalties and forfeitures on mens Persons and Estates, as hath been practised in the world since the days of the Apostles, among the Nations professing Christianity; This thing is not of the Lord, nor according to Commands of Christ, and Example of the Apostles and Primitive Christians, declared of in the Scriptures, but is of Antichrist, and unrighteous, unequal and dangerous, to the destruction of the Souls and Bodies of both the Imposers, and the Imposed. For,

1. Such kind of forcing, & compelling by force of outward Laws, into such outward conformity of Religion, Faith and Worship, Church Government and Ministry, was never in being, nor ever practised in the true Christian Churches, amongst the Apostles in their days, nor ever was such a thing known among the Primitive Christians. There was no such kind of Laws made nor executed amongst them,

them, nor such force exercised on men's persons and estates in such cases; there was no outward violence used in the primitive times, to compell any to conformity to Christian Faith, Worship, and practice of Christian Religion; none of the first Christians were made truly Religious, and converted from the way of Error, to the way of true Christianity by such means of outward force and commandments of men put upon them; They were not (I say) converted themselves to the Christian Faith and Religion, nor made conformable worshippers of God in his Spirit by that way and means, nor did they seek to convert others into conformity to Church-Government and Christian Worship by force of outward Laws, upon pains and forfeitures; These things were not in the true Church of Christ in the Apostles days amongst the Primitive Christians.

2. But the true way of Conversion among them, to the Christian Faith, and Worship, and true Church-Government, whereby people were made rightly conformable to the true Christian Religion, as it was amongst the Apostles; was by and through the Doctrine of the Gospel of Christ Jesus preached amongst them in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God of such as were truly called and sent of him, which did turn people to the Spirit of God, and that Ministry wrought in them to receive it, by which their consciences were convinced, and their hearts persuaded in the love of Christ to believe in him, and receive him, and follow him; and thus were they drawn, and begotten, and converted into the Faith, and Worship, and Practice of the true Christian Religion, and made conformable to the Government and Order of the true Church of Christ, in all things, by this means; and were only, and not at all by any outward force and compulsion exercised upon them, converted to the true Christian Religion, and to the true Worship of God; and by the same way did they convert and turn others to the same, and this onely is the perfect way of Christian Conformity to the true Christian Worship and Church-Government; it ever was since the beginning of Christianity in the world, and is unto this day, even to persuade the heart, and to convince the Conscience inwardly by the sound Doctrine of the Gospel, through the operation of the Spirit of Christ, and by love, and meekness, and patience, and all the fruits of righteousness, held forth in Doctrine and Conversation, which may answer the Testimony of God

in all mens Consciences: Hereby, and in this way is true Conversion wrought in the hearts, to the turning men from all Error unto the Truth, and from all false Worship, and Heresies, and all ways, unto the true Christian Worship, and conformity to holy Church and Religion: This (I say) was the way among the primitive Christians and Apostles of old, and is the same among the true Christians in this age; and they that would conform others, and are conformed themselves, otherwise in this Case of Religion and Worship to God-wards, are not in the Example of Christ and his Saints, but out of the Life, and contrary to the first Christians, and president of the holy Scriptures, as hereafter is manifested.

3. The way and practice of imposing Religion, and Conformity in Worship and Church-Government, by Force, (as aforesaid) is so far from being according to the Practice and Example of the Apostles and the primitive Churches of Christians, that they are even contrary to the Commands and Exhortations of Christ and his Apostles, and Example of the Scriptures: 1. As in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, Matt. 13, when it was desired of the servants, that they might go and gather out the Tares that the Enemy had sown, from among the Wheat, it was commanded to the contrary by the Husbandman, even that they should suffer the Tares to grow among the Wheat till the Harvest, and not pluck them up, lest they should hurt the Wheat thereby. Now though there be an invisible Myserie of the Kingdom of Heaven secretly signified in this Parable, more then may here be said; yet 'tis also clearly signified, that Christ would have no imposition nor violence used upon the Tares, nor that they should pluck them up by force, but that the good Corn and the bad should grow together in one Field till the Harvest. And thus much this Parable bears the proof of: Suppose there be Heresies and Heresicks, and prophane persons that are not in the truth, but in errors, who are bad Corn, even as the Tares to the Wheat; in that Kingdom, City or Family where there is also converted Saints, and holy persons, and true Members of Christ, who are as the Wheat to the Tares; yet such Hereticks and prophane persons that are in Error, ought not to be plucked up violently, to wit, Imprisoned, banished, and put to death, burned and destroyed from amongst the righteous, though they grow amongst them, even in the same Fields.

the converted Saints ought not (I say) to destroy by banishment or death, the Heretics, and unconverted, and unconvertible persons from amongst them, but they are to let them live, even grow amongst them in the same Field, in the same Kingdom, City or Family, till Harvest. And thus much the Parable may truly signify, even a liberty to live for the Tares, the bad Corn, the evil persons, among the Wheat; the righteous persons; without being imposed upon by cruel force and outward violence, to compel into conformity.

2. As in the case among the Saints and true believers, where some believed they might eat all things, others did eat Herbs; and some esteemed one day above another, and others esteemed every day alike, Rom. 14. Here was some difference in Judgement and Practice among the Believers, about Meats and Dayes (about which things there hath been much Imposition and Force used in the World since the Apostles dayes:) Well, but what doth the Apostle Paul do, and advise in this case? Doth he threaten violence towards any of them, or signify any forcible commands or impositions to be used to bring them into conformity and unity in the things and matters about which they were divided? No, no; but this is his advice to the Church of Christ (of which he was a true and able Minister) Judge not one another about such things, nor do not impose any practice upon thy Brother; for to Christ Jesus his Master, every Believer stands or falls. And saith the Apostle, Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind, ver. 5 And hereby 'tis manifestly proved, that in the Churches of Primitive Christians, the Saints and true Christians were not imposed upon by commandments of men, or outward Laws, in the matters of their Religion, and practice of Conscience; there was no signification of Force to be used for Conformity; but wholly contrary, even every believer had the liberty of the Spirit of Christ, and as he was by that persuaded in his own mind, to do, or leave undone in such cases, and every one was to mind the workings of the Spirit of Christ in himself, for to that he was to stand or fall, and not to impose upon another, no not so much as to judge his Brother in any case of difference in judgement or practice, but they were to leave one another to the persuasions of the Spirit of Christ in their own minds.

3. As in the Case where the *Apostle* exhorted the *Saints* to be like-minded, *Phil. 3.* But saith he, *If any be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you;* by which saying it is manifest, that the *Unity* and *Conformity* of *Saints* in mind and practice, was not by *Imposition*, or any outward force threatened or exercised upon their *Persons* or *Estates*; but contrariwise, if there was any difference in mind and practice amongst them, that was to be amended, and *Unity* made up, when God revealed the same truth in all, as he had done in some, if any were not so minded in any thing as others were; they were not to be imposed upon, but let God reveal the same, and bring into conformity; this was the *Apostle's Counsel*: And ver. 16. *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same Rules;* that is to say, so far as the *Rule* of the *Spirit* of *Christ* is made manifest, or in what measure the perfection thereof is attained unto, let every one walk in the same measure, and by the same Rule, and if any have not the self-same measure of the *Spirit*, and knows the self-same things, let such alone, without imposing upon them, leave them to walk in the measure of *Light* and *Knowledge* that they have received, though it be not the self-same measure that others have received; and if they want any know'edge, or be in any thing otherwise minded, God shall reveal the same unto them, even the same thing, as they grow in the same measure of *Grace* and *Knowledge*: And here is the perfect way of *Unity* and *Conformity*, as the *Primitive Christians* were exercised in the true *Faith* and *Worship*, and true *Christian Religion* in their days: And so to impose by Force upon pains and forfeitures in *Religious matters*, is clearly contrary to all these *Scriptures*, and to many more in the *New-Testament*.

4. In that case 1 *Per. 5. 2, 3.* where the *Apostle* exhorts the *Elders* to take the oversight of *God's Flock*, not by constraint or force, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being *Lords* over *God's Heritage*: Which clearly signifies against imposing upon the *Flock* of *God*, or forcing in *Religious Matters*, for ye see the *Elders* might not be constrained or forced to take the oversight of the *Flock*; neither (having the oversight of it) might they be as *Lords* over it, nor exercise *Lordship* over the *Heritage* of *God*, to wit, not command the *Faith* of any, nor impose by any force, in matters of *Faith* or *Duty*, nor oppress the pure *Conscience* of any, nor be as *Lords* (in any case) over the *Heritage*, nor use any *Lordliness*, or *Master-*

Ship, or Dominion; or Commandment by force; or imposing upon the Flock; this is clearly forbidden by the Apostles, and the contrary commended. But here examples to the Flock; (saith he) feed them, with them, teach them; or oversee them, by good example, by love, as good Elders or Stewards over them, not as Lords, exercising any force upon them in rigor or bitterness; and this is the perfect way of Bishops, Elders and Ministers, overseeing the Flock of God, even to rule over, and oversee God's Heritage, walking before them as good Examples of humility, self-denial, and in all the vertues and fruits of the Spirit of Christ, and feeding them hereby with the Word of Life, and that freely, not for filthy lucre, hire or rewards; and not ruling over them as Lords, imposing upon them, or exercising Lordship, by forcing and commanding such Faith, Worship and Duty, and imprisoning, and persecuting for disobedience of such forcing, violent commands, as hath been practised in the World for many Ages, even Lordliness exercised over the Heritage of God, and the Ministers, Pastors and Elders have been as Lords over the Flock, and ruled by force and imposition, contrary to the example of Scriptures, and the Commands of the Apostles; and Love, Meekness, Gentleness, and good Example, have been neglected, contrary to the Apostle Peter's Instructions.

Thus it is clearly manifest throughout the Scriptures, by many proofs, that the way of imposing Religion, and forcing into the conformity of Worship and Church-Government, in the dispensation of the Gospel, as aforesaid, is contrary to the commands of Christ and his Apostles, and the example of Scriptures, and is not of God, nor according unto him. And now I shall shew in the fourth place, of whom it is, and by whose Example this violence used, and persecution, unto Imprisonment and Death for, and because of Religion, and also the beginning of imposition by force amongst Christians.

4. All this Persecution practised about Religion, that hath been in the world, as Imprisonments, Banishments, Whippings, cruel Tortures unto death, and grievous Affliction, hath been of the wicked one, through the Malice and Envy of the Devil, against God and his People in all Generations, even all that Persecution exercised towards the Prophets of old, before the coming of Christ in the Flesh, it would be too large to relate the particulars of it, as it is signified partly in the Scriptures, and chiefly in the Records of Transactions in their dayes; and I perceive it will easily be acknowledged by all, that such

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such *cruel Persecutions* were of the Devil. And again, in the days of *Christ* and his *Apostles*, how great was that force and imposition by *Persecution*, practised upon the true primitive *Christians*, by the *Jews* and *Heathens*, even that *Persecution* which was inflicted upon *Christ*, his *Apostles*, and the *Christians*, was imposition and force exercised about *Religion*, though not so much for compelling them to any thing, as from that way of *Righteousness* and *Truth* in which they walked; they were commanded to preach no more in the Name of *Jesus*, and were imprisoned, banished, and greatly afflicted by the *Jews* (that great professing people) for; and because of their *Religion*, and this for the first and second Ages: I need not mention the particular proofs for this thing, 'tis so clear throughout the *Acts* of the *Apostles*, and else-where, how the *Primitive Christians* were forced and imposed upon by *cruel Laws*, and violent persecutions for their *Christian Religion* sake; all which force and imposed persecutions, were of the Devil, out of his envy and malice raised up, and begotten in the hearts of wicked men, against God and his elected People; and this will be acknowledged by all. But

5. This way and practice of imposing upon people by force, and compelling them to conformity in matters of *Worship* and *Religion*, and all this persecution about the same, was never known in the world amongst *Christians*, nor practised by any called *Christians*, till the *Apostasy*, and falling away from the true Faith, which some did in the dayes of the *Apostles*, and many more afterwards; for even in the *Apostles* dayes, some were gone out from them into the way of *Cain* that killed his Brother, and into the way of *Balaam*, that went for gifts and rewards; and these were *Apostates* from the true Church, and they were heady, high-minded men, proud, covetous, false accusers, and such like, as *Paul* to *Timothy* expresseth; such as these were already sprung up in the first Age, and they grew more abundantly in the second Age; and these were the *Antichrists* and false *Prophets* which *John* saw were gone out from the true Church, into the world, in his time; and these deceived the world by the form of godliness, and the likeness of Christianity, without the Power and Spirit of *Christ*; and the *Apostates* from the true Faith which were overspread in many Nations, and grown numerous, were the *Sea* and the *Earth*, out of which the *Beasts* arose, *Rev. 13.* And it was given to the *Beast* to make war with the *Saints*, and to overcome them, and they that

that dwell upon the Earth should worship him; and he should CAUSE the Earth, and them that dwell therein, to worship; and he should CAUSE as many as would not worship the Beast and his Image, should be killed; and he should CAUSE all, both small and great, rich and poor, bond and free, to receive his Mark, &c. And this Beast was the Authority of Antichrist that arose among the Apostates and the false Prophets, that thus CAUSED and compelled all to worship the Beast and his Image; Mark how often the word CAUSED is used in that Chapter, which is compelled or forced, and it was the Antichrist, the Beast that did it, the Authority that arose among the Apostate Christians that were gone from the true Church; and this was the first that we read of any forcing or compelling to worship, or persecuting about Worship, and imposing about the same, since the days of the Apostles, through Ages, amongst them called Christians; and here was the beginning of imposing by force, and violent Laws, in the matters of Worship and Religion, amongst the People called Christians, and one Sect and sort according to its Authority, imposed by Laws and force upon another, causing, and compelling one another to worship and believe according to his Form and Image; and as any Sect of Christians hath gained outward Authority over others, that same hath caused and forced all others by outward violence into conformity to its own way and worship; and this hath been amongst the People called Christians, in the Apostasie, ever since Antichrist and his Power rose up amongst them; and thus, and at this time began first the imposing of Worship, and persecuting about the same amongst Christians: And thus 'tis manifest to be, of Antichrist, and of the wicked one, and not of the Lord.

6. By what is said, it is plain, That all in this present Age who impose by force of Laws, and compell to worship and persecute about the same, are not in the example of Christ, or his Apostles, or any the good Primitive Christians, but in so doing are in the example of the Persecutors of the Holy Prophets, and in the example of the cruel Jews that killed Christ, and persecuted the Saints; and in the example of the cruel Heathens, that violently persecuted the Christians in divers Ages and Countreys, and are indeed of Antichrist, and of the Beast, that arose up against the Saints; and made war against them; and such are all they that do impose upon the Persons, Estates and Consciences of men at this day, upon the account aforesaid; and this is worthy of all mens serious consideration. And now

in the next place I shall proceed to shew how *unrighteous* and *unreasonable* it is for any called *Christians* to impose upon the Conscience of others, and to force them by *Laws* and *Commandments* in the matters of *Worship*, and to persecute about the same.

1. It is *unrighteous*, because it is an intruding upon the *Privilege* and *Prerogative* of God, and seems to be a derogating from His *Honor* *Power* and *Dominion*, which properly is in himself, and pertains to him alone, and not unto mortal man, which is to give *Laws* to Conscience, and to exercise it in all cases of *Religion* respecting his *Worship*, *Duty* and *Service*, and to persuade mens Consciences by his *Spirit*, to follow him, and observe all things which he requires in *Faith* and *Worship*: This *Power* is onely proper to God alone, and to him pertaineth, and to no other: And therefore for any man, or earthly *Powers* of man, to give *Laws* and *Rules* to Conscience, and to impose upon men in the matters of God's *Worship*, forcing conformity in spiritual exercises, by violent commands, upon forfeitures and punishments, seems to be, and really is, an assuming and presuming upon God's *Authority*, which belongs onely to him, and tends to rob him of the same, and is an entrenching upon his *Sovereignty*, and and is wholly *unrighteous*, and inasmuch as it is a fitting in the Seat of God, and forcing the Exercise of *Worship*, and intruding upon his blessed *Privilege*, and a presuming into his *Authority*, which he commits to no man, a robbing him of his *Honor* and *Spiritual Dominion*: Therefore to impose in matters *Religious*, is *unrighteous* on their parts that do practice it. And

2. It is *unrighteous* because it is contrary to the *Command* of God, Do ye to others as ye would be done unto; but this imposing in matters of *Worship*, is a practice done by others, which others would not be done unto by any, and therefore 'tis *unrighteous*; for no one Sect or sort of *Christians*, would be imposed upon in that case by any others, nor forced and compelled by outward violence, against their judgments and Consciences, unto such a Conformity of *Faith* and *Worship*, to do thus is not to love a man's neighbour as himself, nor to do to all men, as men would be done unto; for if at any time and place the *Papists* (so called) impose upon the *Protestants* (so called) in this case, of forcing them unto Conformity or persecuting them about Religion, 'tis cried out against by such as are so imposed upon, to be tyranny, oppression, and exalting *unrighteousness*; and thus every Sect
of

of Christians cries out against others, that do impose upon them by force, in things religious, contrary to their judgments and consciences; each sort when they suffer faith of others, they are unrighteous in such impositions, though many cannot see it to be unrighteous in themselves, when they have the opportunity to do it, and doth impose upon others; but this is where self-advantage kills and choaks the witness of God, though however in it self imposing as aforesaid in religious matters, is contrary to the holy Law of God, and a doing to others as men would not be done unto by others, and therefore 'tis unrighteous, both before God and all just men.

3. It is unrighteous to impose worship by force, because it is an exercising dominion over men's faith, by force of outward power, which the Apostle renounces, and seems to forbid, saying, They had not dominion over mens Faith; and if the Apostles themselves had not power or dominion over men's Faith, that is to say, to command mens faith to believe, or do this, or the other, but as the holy Spirit of Christ perswaded their consciences inwardly; then no outward power of Kings or Rulers whatsoever, can justly or righteously challenge such priviledge as to have dominion over mens faith; by imposing upon them through force, which is to take dominion over men's faith, which is unrighteous, because it is contrary to the Scripture, and to the example of the Apostle Paul, inasmuch as it is exercising dominion and lordship over the flock of Christ, and not leaving them to Christ the true Shepherd, who onely ought to teach his people by his Spirit into all truth both of Doctrine, Faith and Worship; and hath not given power or authority to any Rulers of this world, to impose by force upon the consciences of his tender flock, nor to rule them in lordly dominion, exercising outward force upon them; but whosoever doth this, it is unrighteous.

4. It is unrighteous, in respect of the fruits and effects which it always have, and ever will be produced by such imposition upon conscience in religious matters as aforesaid, (to wit) persecution and cruelty of men exercised in that case, which ever hath been, and will be brought forth in Nations and Kingdoms where such impositions are; for if we look into Ages past, what strife and contentions, what enmity and bitterness, what wars and bloodsheds, what dangers and mischiefs, what persecutions and cruelties have been brought forth among men between Kingdom and Kingdom, between City and City,

yes between Kings and their Subjects, between neighbour and neighbour, between brother and brother, upon this very unrighteous assumption of imposing upon conscience by force in respect of Worship; and every Nation and City at this day, is in the same danger of the same mischief, where such impositions are in force; and therefore needs must the occasion of these so unjust and unrighteous effects, which doth administer the reason of such contentions, wars, persecutions and strifes, be unrighteous, and such is imposing in matters religious as aforesaid: and this is partly manifest, and will be more and more through the world, That that Kingdom, City and Country, will not be free from these dangers and mischiefs, but will always be liable unto them, while this kind of imposition by force on the conscience is unremoved; and that which is the occasion of such continual present dangers, to destroy Kingdoms, Cities and Peoples, is unrighteous; and such is imposition in the matters of Worship and Religion.

5. It is unrighteous in any King, Prince, or Authority of this world to impose as aforesaid, because it divers, confounds and destroys the end of just rule and government amongst men one over another, which is onely to rule well in outward affairs, and over the outward man, to keep that in peace and good order, and to be a praise to them that do well, and a terror to all that do evil in their outward man, this is the onely end of Government and rule among men in this world, to rule well over the outward man in things between man and man; but not to rule over mens consciences, and to exercise lordship over men in the spiritual matters of Christs Kingdom; this pertains not to the outward worldly government of men; and therefore whosoever do take it upon them, and thereby do oppress the conscience of any, by forcing in spiritual matters, doth unrighteously, inasmuch as they do divers the end of their Authority, and use their power to another end than God hath appointed them; and while they should onely preserve and defend the outward man by good and wholesome Laws made for that purpose, they yet and oppress the inward man, even the conscience, by forcing upon it, and imposing through violence in the matters religious, which is contrary to the end of just rule and government in the world, and therefore is wholly unrighteous.

6. It is unrighteous, because it effects no good end, nor brings people into the true faith and worship of God, but on the contrary makes

many Hypocrites, even through fear and terror; such *Laws* forcing Conformity, do make many hypocritically conform to such or such way of Worship, which the Spirit of Christ doth not persuade their Conscience of the truth of; nay it may be against their Conscience; and that *(Imposition as aforesaid)* which is the cause of this, is wholly *Unrighteous*; *unrighteous*, because the *End* propounded by the *Imposers* (which is, to make people true Worshipers of God) is utterly frustrate and void; and none are made true Worshipers of God by such *Imposition* and *Force*, but many are made Hypocrites, thereby, and sinners against God; for what any performs to God-ward, by *Force*, and not of Faith (given into the heart by God) it is sin; For whatsoever is not of Faith, is sin, as saith the Scripture; and that which is the occasion of hypocrisy and sin, is *unrighteous*; and *temperous*; but such is imposing on Conscience by force in matters religious.

7. It is *unrighteous* and *unreasonable* to impose by force upon Conscience, because it is the occasion of absolute extremity put upon many that are dear and precious to the Lord, even such an extremity as may force (unavoidably) the ruin of either Soul or Body, or both in this world and hereafter. For, suppose such *Laws* be made for the forcing of conformity to command men to worship upon the forfeiture of whole Estate, Banishment or Death, which is contrary to the Spirit of Christ, and good Conscience: And if such *Law* be not obeyed, and such Conformity made, but the Conscience kept clear to God, then the outward man in his Person, Estate and Family is ruined in this world; and if such *Laws* be obeyed, and such Conformity yielded, contrary to good Conscience; then the inward man is ruined, and the Soul and Conscience wounded and grieved, because God is offended, and Christ is denied, and the Law of men obeyed, rather than the Law of God; and this is by an Extremity, occasioned through imposed force in the cases of Conscience, by Authority and *Laws* of men. And that which is the occasion of such ruin and destruction to the Souls and Bodies of such as fear the Lord, is an *unrighteous* thing, which administers that *useful* extremity; To deny God, and so to be liable to his Wrath and Judgements; or to deny the Authority of men, and so to be liable to destruction of Person and Estate in this world; and such is imposing of Worship.

8. It is *unrighteous* and *unreasonable*, because it may destroy the faith of some, even of such upon whom *Imposition* is laid, against their

their pure Consciences: For suppose a Person (or People) being truly persuaded by the Spirit of Christ in the true way of Religion, Worship of God, having therein true Peace with God in a clear conscience, and by force of Law, and through cruel impositions, should be forced from that way of Worship which they have had peace with God in, and which the Spirit of Christ persuaded them of the truth of, on to such a way of worship which they could not have peace with God in, nor the comfort of his Presence in such conformity, forced upon them, this were certainly unrighteous and unreasonable, that a people (or a person) should be forced by laws from that way wherein they have Peace and Blessings with God, to that way wherein their souls are famished for want of the Presence of the Lord: Like as if a person of such a Calling, following the same in a certain City or Town, whereby he maintained himself in all good things, and wanted nothing, and yet the chief Magistrate of the said City or Town, should forcibly compel (by violence) the said person of so good a Calling, from that his Calling, (whereby he so well maintained himself in the World) and should force upon him to follow another calling, of which he could not live in the World, but by it he might perish and starve, Would not all reasonable men conclude, the same imposition of the said Magistrate upon the said poor man, were Oppression, Cruelty, Unrighteous and Unreasonable: And the case of imposing Religion, as aforesaid, is the greater oppression and cruelty, inasmuch as it respects the immortal Soul, which is more worth than the Body, and the other respects but the Body, which is of less worth (with all that concerns it) then is the Soul, which is immortal.

Lastly, 'Tis unrighteous, inasmuch as it is contrary to the Scriptures (of the New Testament in the dispensation of the Gospel) which are before-cited, and contrary to Christ and his Apostles Example in the Primitive Churches of Christians, and thus it is manifest, That imposing by force upon Conscience in Religious Matters, is unrighteous and unreasonable, and is not of Christ, but of Antichrist, as by plain Reasons is demonstrated. And now I shall in a few words shew the danger of imposing Worship as aforesaid, and how dangerous it is to any King, Prince, or outward Authority, that are or may be the imposers on the Consciences of men by force in the case of Worship and Religion, as some have done, and shall now shew.

It is dangerous to cause the People to sin, to cause them to conform in appearance, when the heart is not devout to God; and this makes them Hypocrites. Dangerous to cause people to perform Duty to God with out Faith in God; and this makes them sinners against him, for when sinners are not of Faith, is sin. Dangerous to cause some to deny Christ before men for the fear of this world, and the terrors of violent men, and to forsake that way which they know is of the Lord, and to follow that way which they know is not of him; and this is denying the Lord of Life, and a great abomination against him; and the cause of all this is, Imposing by force upon Conscience in matters Religious; and the reason of that cause is the Imposers, such as make and exercise such force; and this danger all such are involved in, even the danger of causing people to sin against God, of denying Christ, of making Hypocrites, and so even in the danger of destroying souls, which is a desperate danger: Ob that all the Imposers of Religion by force should consider it, and look upon the danger which they are deeply fallen into, and involved in, by reason of such their imposing upon Conscience; alas, they are in the danger of destroying souls, of causing a Nation and a People to sin against God; and to deny the Lord of Life. And how great is such a danger even to be avoided of all, if they love their own souls, and not to be the occasions and causes of destroying souls by causing people to sin; and this danger all the Imposers upon Conscience are captivated in. And
 151 It is dangerous to be a means to destroy that Kingdom, City or Country, and the Ruler thereof by sowing and nourishing Discontent, Hatred, malignity and Envy among the People one against another, and against their Rulers; because of such unrighteous Force and Violence exercised by imposition upon their Consciences: Dangerous also, to raise into Contentions, Strifes, Broyles and Blood-shed itself, in a Kingdom amongst People. And this is a danger violently impending upon such Rulers as do impose as aforesaid, even a danger to ruin their own Power and Authority, and to ruin the People under their Dominion, by raising the People into disorders and troubles, through the cruelty of the Oppression of imposing Religion; and the Example hereof may be read in Nations and Countries at this day: What differences and contentions have arisen dangerously among People one towards another, and towards their Rulers, upon this Cause and occasion of imposing Reli-
 gion,

give by force unrighteously, and 'tis a danger this day, that all the Rulers of the World are exposed unto, and deeply involved in, where this Cause of imposing Religion is extant in force.

3. It is dangerous to impose Religion by force, because it must needs produce Oppression, Persecution, Violence and Hatred, in the prosecution thereof; and this is dangerous to any Kings, Rulers, or Governors, to be reputed Oppressors, Persecutors, and cruel men; this is infamous, and of bad report amongst men, and abominable and wickedness in the sight of God, for any Rulers upon Earth to be Oppressors, Persecutors and cruel men; and such consequently must they be that are imposers upon mens Consciences in Matters Religious: And this danger all the Rulers of the World are in, that do impose Religion by force: even to render themselves infamous by Oppression, in the sight of men, and to render themselves sinners against God; and this danger falls upon the imposers of Religion, because of such their Impositions by Force upon the Consciences of men.

Lastly, 'Tis dangerous because 'tis of Antichrist, and not of Christ, as before proved; and all that do impose by violence on the the Consciences of men in Religious Cases, are of Antichrist in so doing, and because thereof, liable to God's indignation and heavy wrath in this world, and hereafter; and 'tis dangerous to bring the Wrath and Judgements of God upon men that are guilty thereof for God will be avenged upon such his Enemies that exercise Violence and Persecution upon men for their Conscience-sake: And This is a danger unavoidable, which all that impose Religion are liable unto, even to be cut off in the wrath of the Lord; and to undergo his Indignation for all the reasons before shewed.

These, with many other dangers are they involved in, that are imposers in religious matters: Therefore, Oh that the Rulers of this world would be wise now in their last day, and would consider the unjustness and unreasonable of their imposing Religion, and the many dangers that attends the same. Oh that they would learn God's Counsel, and rule only for him in Justice, Mercy, Truth, Equity and true Judgment, exercising the same in the work and lowly spirit of Jesus, among men, and over whom they are set to rule in this world, and would give to God Almighty his Due, and Right, and Privileges, in exercising the Consciences of men by his spirit,

Spirit, in all cases of Christ's Kingdom; for it only belongs to Him to be Ruler in the inward man. Oh that the Rulers of this world would give this Power and Dominion unto God, and would from henceforth never more exercise Lordship over Conscience, by imposing Religion through force, but would onely rule well over the outward man in the things pertaining to man; and would leave to God the rule and exercise of Conscience; Oh then would it go well with them, and happy and blessed should they be in such their Authority, and peace should be unto them, if that they onely took the Government, (as appointed of God) over the outward man, and did not impose upon the inward man by force, in religious matters, but committed that Authority to God: Then I say, should peace and blessings be unto them: But while it is otherwise, even while they exercise Dominion and Lordship over Conscience, as aforesaid, they do unjustly and unreasonably, and brings upon themselves many dangers, and are liable to contentions, oppositions, wars and many mischiefs in this world, and to the anger and wrath of God in the world that is to come.

CHAP. II.

Concerning Heresie, the Case stated. What it is in it self, and who a Heretick is, and who are the absolute true Judges of it, and what punishment pertains to such as are truly convicted of Heresie.

THERE is such a thing as *Heresie* in it self, even many *Heresies* & *Errors* abounding among the sons of men in the world at this day; and there was *Heresie* in the times of the *Apostles*, and amongst them, brought in by such as cased from the truth, after

after they had once known the *Truth*, and received it; as ye may read, the *Jews* they cried out of *Heresie* in their time, which caused the *Apostle* to say to them, *Acts 24. 14.* After that way which ye call *Heresie*, do we worship the true God of our Fathers. And the *Apostle* said (1 *Cor.* 11.) to the Church, There must be also *Heresies* amongst you, that they that are approved of God, may be made manifest. And (2 *Pet.* 2. 1.) it is spoken of some who should privately bring in damnable *Heresies* into the Church: By all which it is manifest, there was in the *Apostles* dayes *Heresie* and *Heresies*, as there is at this day, even many *Heresies* and *Errors* in the world, held, professed, and maintained by the *Apostate Christians*; that are gone into the form of godliness, without the power, and are turned from the Spirit of Christ, and the soundness of his Doctrine, into the formal profession of Religion, and of the words of Christ and his *Apostles*, and among such are the *Heresies* and *Errors*.

2. *Heresie* is somewhat believed and professed in practice of Worship, and in point of Faith and Doctrine, that is either contrary to, or different from the perfect Truth of the Gospel of Christ; something (I say) held and practised in point of Worship, Faith and Doctrine, which is not justly according to the pure Truth of Jesus, but either in whole, or in part, different from, and contrary thereunto; and whatsoever practice of Worship, or point of Doctrine, as is so held, professed, believed or practised, is *Heresie* and *Error*, because it is different from, and contrary to (in whole or in part) the perfect Truth of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, and because thereof it is *Heresie*, and such is *Heresie* in it self, different from, and contrary unto the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ, though as for the particular parts and points of *Heresie* in Worship, Doctrine and Practice, which are at this day held, professed and believed among *Apostate Christians*, are so very many, that they would be too large here to enumerate, but my present intention is onely this. To shew at large what *Heresie* is in it self, and who is a *Heresick*.

3. A *Heresick* (one that is properly so) is such a person as hath sometime believed in the Truth, and made profession and acknowledgement of the way of true Christianity, and hath received and held the true Faith of the Gospel of Christ, and been

in some measure united to *Christ*, and a *Member* of his *Church*, but is fallen and degenerated in *whole*, or in *part*, from the said *Faith* and acknowledgement of *Christ Jesus*, and the way of *Christianity*, and hath erred from the truth of the *Gospel* once believed and received, and so is divided (in *whole* or in *part*) from the true *Church of Jesus Christ*, and from being a *Member* of the same; and not only so, but hath received also, and doth hold some false *Principles*, *Opinions* and *Practises*, either different from, or contrary to the truth of the *Gospel* before believed in, known and professed; such a man is a *Heretick*, (though generally, yet) truly described: Not such as are *Heathens* unconverted, who never believed yet in the *Gospel*, such who have always resisted the *Truth*, and never yet were convinced of the way of the *Lord*, nor ever tasted of his *Word* and *Power*, but have always been strangers to the *Israel of God*, and Enemies to the *Church of Christ*; such are not properly called *Hereticks*, though they do err in *mind*, *heart* and *practice*; but such only as have believed in *Christ*, and professed his *Truth*, and been of the *Church*, and yet are fallen away from the perfect truth; into some false *principles* and *practises*, and are become unsound in *Judgement*, and erroneous in their *Understandings*, and have forsaken the way of *Truth* (in *whole*, or in *part*) and are corrupted, and lost their *Love* to *God* and his *ways*, and are obstinate, and hardened against the *Truth* (which once they believed) and with false *Doctrines*, *Principles* and *Practises*, do gain-say and oppose the *Truth*, and them that are steadfast in it: These are *Hereticks*, and truly so called; Men that have erred from the *Faith*, that have made ship-wreck of it, and of a good conscience, that are turned against the *Lord* and his *People*, and gain-say the *Truth* that once themselves have believed & professed: These are *errant men*, and *Hereticks*, & such *Hereticks* there were in the *Church*, & among the *Corinthians*; and there were such who did creep into the *Church*, and privily brought in *Heresies* amongst them, as before is proved; And these *Hereticks* were such as had once been amongst the true members of the true *Church*, and been convinced of the true *Jesus*, and had sometimes walked with them, but were departed from them, and had forsaken the *Truth*, and received false *Principles* and *Opinions*, and therefore they were truly nominated *Hereticks*; and all such as this day are truly so called: And this is the Description in general, of a *Heretick*,

Now I come to declare who are the true Judges of Heresie, and Hereticks: Not every man can judge in this case: In his own thoughts, imaginations, and suppositions; who are Hereticks, and who are galled of Heresie, though it hath been the passion for many generations amongst the Apostles who thus contended, errours, and accuse one another to be Hereticks; and each sect and sect of false Christians, to judge, censure and condemn others that are not of their Judgements and Opinions; but differ from them, to be Hereticks and Heresies; and this hath been usual among many; but this is not the true Judgement, nor the way to try and judge truly who Hereticks are, by one self and supplanting and accusing others to be such, because they have not conformed to their Way and Principles; but been different from them: true Judgements hath not been brought forth in this case, on this wise; but rather Every and Every hath judged, and men's thoughts, imaginations, and judgments hath falsely judged in this matter, and no sound judgement determined who have been Hereticks; for men have judged of one another by their private jealousies and evil coverings, and considered one another to be Hereticks, without the Spirit of sound discerning, and just Judgement; and all that Judgements brought forth in that case, without the infallible Spirit of Christ Jesus, which is onely true Discerner and Judge in the matter hath been false Judgements, and men hath judged one another falsely upon error, and evil suppositions, and without the Spirit of the Lord; and it hath often happened by reason hereof, That such so judged for Hereticks have been more righteous, and more in the truth, then they that have so judged them; and the Judges have been more out of the truth, and more Hereticks themselves, then they whom they have falsely judged: And this might be made appeare through several Times and Ages since the Apostles dayes, among the false Christians.

None are able to discern of Heresie, nor to try and judge justly who are Hereticks, none but they (I say) that have the infallible Spirit of God in them, to guide them, and have infallibility and perfect certainty of Judgement and Knowledge that concern Heresie, none else are rightly able to judge who are Hereticks, but such (I say) as have the infallible Spirit of Christ, and are infallible and certain in their Judgements: These only, and such as are able to judge, they onely are the true Judges in the case of Heresie, and

who

who are Hereticks; and if any judge in that Case, it is but out of Error and Envy; and in the *evil* Suppositions and Conclusions, as aforesaid, and must needs be false and unjust Judgements, if they have not the infallible Spirit of God; and infallibility of Judgements to discern by, and determine with in that Case; for no man nor men, they, or can justly judge another in the matter of Heresie, as a Heretick; by their own thoughts or suppositions; out of their enmity, and for their self-interests; but the Judgement in that matter must be just, equal, holy and good; and only by the Spirit of Christ Jesus which is infallible, and gives infallibility of Judgement and discerning in all cases and things; for it was Christ Jesus and his Apostles; and the Saints that had the infallible Spirit of God; and infallibility of Judgements; that could only judge justly of such things, who were Hereticks; and who were not; and it was not the Jews nor Priests that could justly discern or judge in Gods Spiritual matters; but they always judged of Christ and his Apostles; and of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of Gods, false and unjustly in their *evil* suppositions and envy; and this was because they had not the infallible Spirit of Judgement; nor the certain infallible knowledge and discerning of diverse things in Spiritual Cases; and so it is now at this day amongst them called Christians; there is no man discern truly, nor judge justly what Heresie is; nor who is a Heretick; but such as are guided by the infallible Spirit of God, and have infallibility of Judgement; nor none can make Laws whereby justly to judge of Judgement; nor none can make Laws whereby justly to judge of Heresie and Hereticks; but them who have the same infallible Spirit of God guiding them, and have received infallibility of Judgement: So both the Law-makers, and the Judges of the Law, must be infallible in knowledge and judgement in this case of Heresie, otherwise the Law made for that purpose, and the Judgement given by that Law, are both false and unjust, and not according to God and his Spirit; but are to be justly judged and condemned of the Lord God; in his day and seasons: (Yea) yea and amen.

Now it remains to be enquired into, whether there is any punishment pertaining to Hereticks as such, for such Heresies held by them: Being first convicted truly thereof, as aforesaid, by the true Church of Christ, in whom there is infallibility of Judgement, knowledge and discerning in that case; for in the true Church of Christ both infallibility of true Judgement and Knowledge dwell, and every

every true Member of the true Church of Christ, in particular members of the infallible Society of Christ; whereby he is certainly persuaded of the way of Truth in which he walks, and knows and believes the infallibility of the Truth he professeth, and is certain and secure of the way of his peace and assurance in God, which he hath received and believed; and also hath witness and infallibility of judgement, and discerning who are out of the Truth, and in the way of Error, and are Hereticks, such are infallibly known and discerned by the Spirit of God in the true Church of Christ; and by every Member of the same, according to his measure of the same Spirit and Gift of Knowledge and Discerning by it. And to such as are so convicted by the infallible Spirit of Christ for such their Heresies, there is a Punishment pertaining, for Hereticks were to be punished in the Apostle's dayes, according to Paul's Instructions, 1 Cor. 5. which was, That such a one as had erred from the Truth which once he knew, should be delivered up unto Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that the Spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord. Here was a punishment described by the Apostle for such that had erred and gone from the Truth, and acted against it though once he believed in it, and knew it. And again Tit. 3. 10. He exhorteth and advises, That a man that is a Heretick, after the first and second admonition should be wholly rejected, and turned away from, and judged with the Holy Spirit of God.

And thus it is clear, there is such a thing as dealing with men that are Hereticks; and punishing them for such their Heresies, according to the Apostle's Doctrine and Instructions. And without all controversie, such as do err from the Faith which once they have received, and turn from the Truth in Principle or Practice, must not escape unpunished, but must receive the Sentence of just Judgement from God, and from his Church that continue faithful.

7. But what kind or nature this punishment is of, in what way and manner such as are Hereticks, may be, and ought to be punished, is doubtful to many, and is a case at this time to be enquired into, for that way and practice of punishing such as have been supposed to be Hereticks, is among the Christians (so called) for many generations; (to wit) the way and practice of burning, banishing, killing, imprisoning, and afflicting corporally the persons of them that have been called Hereticks for their

safe, and saying for his natural passion, on their bodies and
 flesh, as hath been the practice of Papists and Traitors towards
 one another since the apostles dayes, this way and practice hath
 not been of God, nor by any example or precept of the Apostles, or
 first Christian Churches established in their dayes; they did not
 practise nor propose such dealing towards them that were truly
 Hereticks; and were wry from the faith and word of Iesus Christ,
 not killing, burning, chastising and persecuting the persons of Here-
 ticks, this was not the way of the Spirit of God among the primi-
 tive Christians, they did it not, nor gave instruction for the doing of
 it at any time; but this way of dealing towards Hereticks, in
 such cruel proceedings, as hath been in practice for many years, is of
 Satan and Antichrist, and is downright murders, murther, and wicked-
 kednes in the eyes of the just God; while one set on feet of Chris-
 tians (so called) have punished and cruelly persecuted another
 for different from them as Hereticks, with grievous afflictions in
 body and estate, even unto death and banishment; this hath not
 been of God, nor any Christian-like; but of the wicked one,
 and such men and murtherers before the Lord, neither is the same
 proceeding at this day, in any part of the world, where they
 are extant, any just, legal, righteous, Christian-like way of
 proceeding according to Apostolical example; but is of Anti-
 christ, and of the wicked one, as I have said: And this way and
 practice of dealing towards Hereticks, hath been so far from ef-
 fecting the intent, of any to the way of the Lord that have been
 bred from it, (as the end of proceeding towards Hereticks should ef-
 fect) that showing and practice of killing, banishment and persecu-
 tion by violence, Hereticks (so called), hath hardened men in
 their cruelty, and made such as have been Hereticks more bold,
 confident and obstinate in their way, heresie and error, and ma-
 ny that have been more righteous and clearer from heresie then
 such as have so judged them, have been destroyed by cruel
 dealing, and many others have been destroyed in their iniqui-
 ties and errors, by being so proceeded against; and thus true is Je-
 reme and Isaias in this case have been perverted and turned
 backwards, and because of ignorance and cruelty, the righteous
 have suffered as the wicked, and the wicked have suffered
 by unjust proceedings, and thus the way of righteousness hath not
 been

been living in the Earth, but erre upon error, yet will upon a
 another both come to, one be added to another amongst the
 good offemen in the Apostacy amongst the false Chris-
 tianity.

But the perfect way of the Lord in proceeding towards such as
 are self Hereticks, so discerned and infallibly judged to be by the
 true Church of Christ, is this; Let such first be admonished; ad-
 monished and warned again and again, to beware of them, from
 and receive such false principles, doctrines and practices held by
 them; and this in the Spirit of Christ Jesus in perfect love and in
 meekness, and in the wisdom of the Lord God; such I say, as are
 drawn from the way of the Lord, and from the faith of Christ once
 received, into error, ought thus in the first place to be dealt
 withal, by the way of admonishing, instructing, warning and reprov-
 ing; that there may be a returning and repentance towards the
 Lord and his truth again from whence they have strayed. And if
 such still not receive the instructions, reproofs and admonitions of
 the true Church of Christ, then such Hereticks shall be rejected and
 cast out, according to 1 Timothee 3. 10, 11. saith the Apostle, *As
 was that is a Heretic; after the first and second admonition, reject
 him; for he that is such is subverted and brought down from his
 himself; here is the description of the punishment of a Heretic;
 If he will not receive admonition after being given him again
 and again, but doth harden his heart against the Church, and
 against the word of Christ, and will not cease, but persist in his
 error; and therefore, and that after reproof and admonition, then he
 is to be rejected, rejected, what is that, but casting him from the
 unity of Saints; a departing and withdrawing from such an one; and a
 depriving of him of the peace and comfort, joy and felicity of the
 Assembly of Gods people and servants; is cutting him from such in
 converse and Fellowship; and separating from them, and
 judging them by the Spirit of Christ Jesus; and this is rejecting
 an Heretic, and delivering him to Satan, according to 1 Cor.
 5. 4, 5, 6. When the Church (the Saints) were last together, with the
 Spirit of God; and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, such an one as
 had erred from the truth, and sinned against it, and was truly a Her-
 etick, should be delivered over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh; that
 the Spirit might be saved. Delivering him to Satan, what is that? but*

to let him be cast out into the wicked world, reputing him as such an one, and that he partake not of the sweet and blessed union and fellowship of Saints in their Assemblies and converse with the God of heaven, in his Spirit and Life; not to be numbred among the righteous, nor a partaker with them in the holy Union of the Elect; to pass judgment upon him eternally, in the estate he is now in, having both *erred* from the truth, and *rejected* and *despised* the reproofs and admonitions of the Church of Christ; and as such to give him up to Satan, to give him up to that Spirit that hath led him aside from the Truth, and hardened his heart against it; to deliver him up to it, seeing he refuseth to be reclaimed from it, and hath chosen to follow it rather than the Truth, let him be left unto, delivered up unto that Spirit, even unto Satan in the wicked world, let him be cast out thither among the unclean, and not reckoned among the record and line of the faithful people; and separated from, and cast out so, as he expresseth it, *vers. 11.* *If any man that is called a Brother be a fornicator, or covetous, a rayler, a drunkard, &c. with such an one not to accompany, no not to eat: and this is, so deliver a Heretick to Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, and is the proper punishment of Heresies and Hereticks, according to the Apostles advice and precept; but not to kill or punish the persons of men by corporal afflictions and penalties, on bodies and estates, for their errors sake; this the Apostle gives no Commission for; but that such as *erred* from the Truth, and walked contrary in principle or practice, should be *rejected* and *delivered up* unto Satan, in the way and manner as before declared.*

Again, in *Math. 18. 16, 17, 18* it is signified by Jesus Christ to the self-same purpose, in these words, *If thy Brother trespass, go and tell him alone; if he repent, forgive him; if not, take one or two or more with thee, and tell him again; if he still neglect to hear, tell it to the Church; but if he neglect to hear the Church, let such a one be unto thee (as hath offended and rejected reproof and admonition again and again) as an Heathen man and Publican.* In which words of Christ is truly signified the right and proper way of proceeding towards Hereticks and Offenders, even that they be first again and again admonished and reprov'd, and if they resist the same then to be cast out, separated from, and not enjoy the union and comfort of the

Saints

Saints amongst them, but as an heathen man and publican; but here is never a word signified of laying *corporal punishments*, and *burning* or *banishing* of persons for their *Errors* sake; and though they may offend, no proceedings of this kind are authorized by *Jesus Christ* or his *Apostles* in their day; but in another way and manner, as I have shewed. is the proper way ordained of God to deal with *Hereticks*, according to the Testimony of holy *Scriptures*, signified by *Christ* and his *Apostles* in the *Primitive Church*.

9. This is punishment according to the nature of the offence; for as the offence is *spiritual*, erring in the mind from the *Truth*, and a going astray from the *Spirit of Christ* in a man's own particular; so the punishment is answerable thereunto, even to be separated from the *Truth*, and not to enjoy the *virtue*, peace and comfort of it, nor to be partakers thereof amongst the faithful people: And this is truly according to the *Justice of God*, whose ways are *just* and *equal* altogether; and hath appointed *just rewards* for *transgressors*; according to the nature and merit of the fact and deed that is evil; and 'tis *righteous* and *just* that men that sin against their own souls, should be deprived of the peace and comfort thereof; that all that do depart from the *Truth* once known, and sin against the knowledge thereof, should be no more a partaker of the *virtue* and *felicity* of the same; and that they who offend the *Lords* people, and revolt from the *union* thereof, should be cast out from them, rejected of them, and not enjoy the *blessings* and peace with them; even that all they that will not hear the *reprofs* of the *Spirit of God*, nor be drawn with the gentle *movings* thereof, should be judged and condemned with the same, and not inherit the *assurance* of the *Saints*: And this is *Gods Justice*; That all that love *Evill*, and walk in *Iniquity*, and despise the *Lord*, should be cast out into the *sinful world*, to have their portion with the *ungodly*, and all the *workers of Iniquity*; and this is *just punishment* according to the nature of the *Offence of Error* and *Heresia*: for in my *Judgement*, (and I have the *Spirit of just Judgement* in this Case) It is *great punishment*, and sufficient for a man that hath once *cast off* of the *virtue* of *Gods Presence* amongst his *People*, to be cast out from the *feeling* and *enjoyment* of that life, *virtue* and *Assembly* where it is enjoyed; this is *punishment*, and a *wound* to the *Soul* and *Conscience*.

heart in the belief of the Truth, and teach, and lead the man in the practice of it, sustaining, even that man ere, and is in Error in all what he saith, and what he doth, in point of Religion, and directs God's mind; and that because the Spirit of Truth and Righteousness is the only Teacher and Teacher in the things professed and practised, but either tradition, example of others, or custom of the world, or something else besides the Spirit of God, which only perswades into the belief of truth, and teacheth into the performance of the same, and this is distinguished and known: A man in error, that is erroneous in his Faith and Practice, if not taught and perswaded by the Spirit of Christ in what he is, and in what he doth, he is in error, and in a degree of Heresy, erring in mind and judgement and conscience, in principles and practice, and subject to err in all things: Now is the sign of Error and Heresy, as the matter hath stood (in distinguishing of Heretics and Heresies, in judging of the same, and in proceeding with Heretics in the manner aforesaid) for many centuries in the Apostolic times the Apostles say, all this hath been wrought, and not in the Spirit and Power of Christ Jesus, but was before and proceeding, all have been perverted from truth in your manner, because the spirit of deceit and guile was both ruled (and not the Spirit of God) in the hearts of men, and the Spirit that is not of the Father (which Spirit of the Father is only pure, perfect and infallible, because it is of God, and can truly judge and determine in their cases) hath been Lord and Judge in this manner, and men one of their way, and led one towards another, have judged one another to be erroneous and Heretics, proceeded against them thereupon, and such as have differed in judgement or Opinion one fell and fell from another, and would not conform to one another in their way, practice and Religion, it hath been common for all different sorts of men to cry out one upon another, and against another, *Heretic, Heretic, Heretic, Heretic, Heretic*, and the like, and proceeded against one another, one against one differing from them, and fell against fell contrary to it self, and especially this sort of people that hath had the Government of *Man and Country* in their power, could, and hath easily proceeded against all sorts differing, upon the account of Error, to the destroying of unity, absolutely through envy, hatred and pride, and not upon the rightfulness and equity of Judge-

know in that matter, and this hath been common for many Ages. Sometimes according to the occasion produced, *Heretics* have destroyed *Professors*, and sometimes *Professors* have destroyed the *Papists* on the account of *Heresy* and *Envy*. All which proceedings have been in the *Blind* and *Ignorance*, and not in the *Love* and *Life* of *Jesus*, whereby it hath come to pass, that many men have been destroyed for the cause, of which they have been made *Envy*, that they have destroyed others, and that they have *Judged* and *proceeded* in the *Blindness* of *Envy* and *Ignorance*, many have been destroyed unjustly, and the world filled with *Envy* about differences in *Religious matters*, and with *Blindness* and *Cruelty*, upon the *false Judgements* of men about *heresies*, and this is weighty, is to be truly considered, a cause to be lamented and grieved for, by the righteous *Christian* life (in the *Christian world*) hath been for *Age* on this occasion, each one of people railing against, and persecuting others in *Heresies* and *Religious* persons, only for differences in *Judgements* in *spiritual* cases, and each particular person (almost) raging with *envy*, and intending his *neighbour's* destruction, and only for being *variously* varied in points of *Doctrine* and *Worship*. Oh! the view on these things, and *woful* effects produced in the world for ages in these occasions, makes my heart grieve, because of the *destructions* of men, yea of the *destruction* of many upon *wrongful Judgements* and *proceedings* on these occasions; I am troubled, I am troubled; and ever since I have known the *right hand* from the *left* (in *God's* matters) my soul often in the deep *search* of these things, hath cryed out, *How woful are they!* And when shall it once be, that these things shall be no more in the world, but that every man may lie at rest and *rest* with his *God* in the *way*, *faith* and *practise* of *righteousness*, as his heart is persuaded of, and not be tossed with *false Judgements*, *cruel* *distinctions*, and *hard dealing*, because of his *Judging* with *Conscience* in the belief and knowledge of *heavenly* *matters*. This hath my spirit been framed with *zeal* against these things, that *unlawful* *Religious* force, these *proceedings* of *killings* and *destroying* men upon the account of *Heresies*, these things my soul hath loathed, and I am weary of them, and my *zeal* is kindled against them: O! when will the *Rulers* of this world learn *wisdom*, and forsake *false Judgements* and *Oppression*? And when will it be that they will *only* *rest* and *judge* for the

Lord

but all *Antichrist*, yet for the most part unknown. *Antichrist* is a word
and not a thing, and among the Jews and Christians, *Antichrist* is a
word and not a thing, and is much abused by the
and working upon the hearts of the Jews and Christians, as the
deriving of *Antichrist* from *Christ* is so, as indeed it is, *Antichrist* is
among whom he dwells, *Antichrist* is a word, and has his
Christian Government, and yet they know it not, nor do they dis-
cern him in his day and work, though they are under his Power
and subject to his Kingdom, such indeed is the *Antichrist* who is
Christ, his hidden, false, carved palace, in which he works and works
among the sons of men in the world, that he easily beguiles
and deceives men, and leads them unto perdition, while yet they
know not that they are beguiled and deceived, but think they are
altogether well, and do not stand in the way of *Antichrist*, be-
ing led of this wicked one, and blinded by him, and are brought
into the false faith, and deceiving presence of *Antichrist*, who is
false and false, as if they were indeed *Antichrist*, the
Glorious and Saint of the Most High, and had a right to eternal
life, and were the very sons and servants of the Almighty, when
indeed and in truth they are yet in the estate of enmity against
God, in the degeneration and bondage of corruption, unconverted and
unjustified, and sinners and ungodly, the very Children of the De-
vil, and servants of unrighteousness, and have no assurance nor
right unto the Kingdom of God, to rest in his peace and glory, such
(I say) is the working of *Antichrist*, that he appears to be in the
world, and that he is a *Christ*, and that he is a *Christ*, and
deceives men and people into the apprehensions and conceits
of what they are not, even contrary to what they are in their
present state and standing; even so deep and mysterious is *Antichrist* in
himself, and in his working among the Children of men.

2. That there is such a man, or *Christ* in the world as *Antichrist*, this is not doubtful, but confessed by all, and proved by
the Scriptures, for the Apostle wrote to the Church, They had
heard that *Antichrist* should come, and even now saith he are there many
Antichrists come into the world, 1 John 2. 18. and also 1 John 2. ver.
saith he, For many deceivers are entered into the world, and this is a
deceiver, and an *Antichrist*, &c. and 2 Thes. 2. the Apostle speaks
of the man of sin, and of the son of perdition, who should be revealed in

the world, and should exalt himself above all that is called God; These, with many other Scriptures, do prove that there is such a thing in the world, already come into the world, and now dwelling and walking in the world as *Antichrist*. Man of sin, and Son of perdition; and as I said, 'tis confessed by all that there is an *Antichrist*, such a *Man*, or *Spirit* now extant in the world; though there are great debates and contentions amongst many called *Christians*, what this *Antichrist* is, and who he is, some holding one thing, and some another about *Him*, and there is much difference amongst men concerning this matter, and 'tis the general way of people one sort to accuse another that are different from them in Profession and Religion; That ye and ye are of *Antichrist*; but this hath been for the most part in enmity, and in the spirit of wrath and contention, and is not from true judgment and knowledge; now therefore it remains to be made manifest according to the gift of grace, knowledge and understanding, what *Antichrist* is in himself, and how he appears in the world, seeing we have proved that there is such a thing as *Antichrist* now ruling and reigning some where amongst men, throughout the Nations of the Earth.

3. *Antichrist* is not (as some suppose) a particular visible person upon earth, distinct and divided from all other persons, as if none besides such an one were *Antichrist*; but *Antichrist* is rather an invisible Spirit; a Spirit I say, dwelling in persons, even in many persons throughout the world, which makes them all of *Antichrist*, or to be many *Antichrists*, according to 1 Joh. 2. 18. *There are many Antichrists*, saith John, whereby we know it is the last time; so that 'tis plain there are in the world many *Antichrists*, many men of sin, or many sinful men, many sons of perdition and ungodliness, not onely one man that is such, but many men in the world, even all such in whom the spirit of *Antichrist*, or *Antichrist* that spirit dwells and walks, they are all *Antichrists*, or of *Antichrist*, because of that spirit of *Antichrist* which doth possess them, and rule them in the ways of sin and death, in idolatry and false ways, and in opposition to, and against *Christ* Jesus the Lord of Life, even all the deceivers in the world, all that are erred from the Spirit and Power of *Christ*, and are not of the true Church, gathered into his Name and

Power

Power, but brings another *Doctrine* than that of *Christ* and his *Saints*, and truly confesses not to *word* and *promises*, when *Jesus* come in the *flesh*, all such are *Antichrists*, and of *Antichrist*, according to 2 *John* 7. even all the *Apostates* who profess *Christ* and his *Truth*, and his *Church*, and are not in the *Spirit* and *Power* of *Christ*, but in the *form* of *godliness*, without the *power*, professing *God* in *words*, but in *works* denying him, all such are *Antichrists*, by reason of that *Spirit* of *Antichrist* which dwells in them, and into which *Spirit* they are leavened and moulded; and are we wish it, and brings forth the *fruits* of it in the *world*; and therefore they are *Antichrists*, more than one, even many *Antichrists*, as I have said.

4. *Antichrist* in himself is the man of sin, the Son of Perdition, which is indeed and in truth the very *Devil* in his nature and kind, and in his power and spirit, and of him, and yet not divided nor distinct from him, but is him (to wit, the *Devil*) as he is in himself; and he is against *Christ*, and wholly contrary to *Christ*, and brings forth *fruits* and *works* to the dishonor of *Christ*, and opposeth *Christ*, and is in all things of a contrary nature and quality to *Jesus Christ*; and he is called *Antichrist*, to wit, before, or against, and contrary to *Christ*; And this is *Antichrist* in himself, an Adversary to *God*, an Enemy to all righteousness; a perverter of the ways of *God*, a hater of all good; a despiser and persecutor of *God's* people, and indeed a certain *Spirit* and *power* distinct, divided and separated from the living *God*, and his Son *Jesus Christ*, and contrary in nature and quality, in *fruits* and *effects*; and there is no fellowship in any thing between *Christ* and *Antichrist*, but they are divided and separated one from the other, contrary and opposite one to the other in all their ways and works, and in their kinds and natures; for (as I have said) *Antichrist* in himself, in his nature and kind, is the *Devil*, and no other; he is the Man of sin, the sinful man, that conceiveth and worketh all evil, the son of perdition, the son that is lost from *God*, and reprobate for ever; he that is fallen, diverged, and cast out from the *Presence*, *Glory* and *Power* of the *Creator*; he that is sealed unto vengeance in the wrath and enmity against *God* and *Christ Jesus*, as being contrary, irreconcilably to the nature and works of *Christ*.

all the world called God, according to the *1st of John*, and Christ himself
 said to his Disciples, *That when I shall be taken up into Heaven, I will send
 Prophets, and Saints, and signifiers, if some shall receive in
 the very End, *Matth. 24*, and which doth signify, that the
 true and false Prophets should come into the world after his
 prophetia, which are already come since that time, they should
 prove to be false, and should show signs, and should declare man-
 ny with the profession of Christ, and sign of *Galatians*, and they
 should have upon them, and be covered with the *1st of John*,
 that in witness the Saints words and practices in outward appearance,
 but inwardly, that is, in their own proper nature, fruits and works
 should be wanting, *Matth. 23*, that is, the fruits of the *1st of John*,
7:25 and the *1st of John*, which *John* speaks, *1st of John*, that
 were such as were from the Spirit, that was in the power of *Galatians*,
 living, they went out of the world, and carried with them
 the form of righteousness and truth, and the profession of Christianity,
 but without the power, and had lost it, and were degraded
 from the Spirit of Christ, and the form of *Galatians* had possessed
 them, and now led them, and ruled them, and they were de-
 graded (to his) against him, and contrary to him, and thus
 were the false Prophets and Teachers, that went out into the
 world and deceived it, and led many aside into error, and many
 followed their pernicious and hurtful way, *1st of John*, *2:18*,
2:22, and *2:23*, and *2:24*, and *2:25*, and *2:26*, and *2:27*, and
 denied the power, and in words professed God, but in works
 such were the Antichrists and Deceivers, as a poison dog, and
 such they are at this time in the world, whereby it is mani-
 fest, that Antichrist often appears in the world as a Lamb, as a
 righteous man, and the many Antichrists they have taken the
 form of appearance of Christ, *1st of John*, *4:1*, and *4:2*, and
 thus they appear in the world, and they are all there
 in, with the appearance and profession of *1st of John*, *4:1*, and *4:2*,
 without the power of *Galatians*, for unto that a man is
 every one, every one, and every one, and every one, and every one,
 and the power of *Galatians*, and the power of *Galatians*, and the power of
 the Spirit of Christ, though in the world he can trans-
 form himself into, and appear as an Angel of Light.*

avo qd basil need nra on

1166. Again, its detestable and unchristian is, and hath the appearance of a *Antichrist* in the world, that he hath not at any time declared his kind of form, and profession of Religion and Righteousness, but he hath dwelt in many appearances, and removed out of the false form, into another, according to his opportunity and advantage, whereby he could deceive; and sometime dwelling in one form, with pretence of zeal, and performance of duty to God, he hath misled, perverted, and destroyed many others in other ways of profession, were *valiant*, upright, and sincere to God, that themselves have been in the other form; and by the colour of zeal, and performance of duty, hath *Antichrist* clothed himself, in his cruelties, persecutions and murders of others; as if he did not persecute nor injure upon the Conscience of any, nor resist that right (or justice), as he hath used to persecute, though never so cruel and unjust) toward any person, any reason or account of wrath, bitterness, envy, brutality, but only duty and love to Religion, and to extinguish Heresy, &c. This hath been the pretence and cloak of *Antichrist* in his wars and wars, as with many men that have differed in principle and manner of thinking, he hath often showed himself, in his pretence of love, to a cause, and awful for the truth of his way, (though never so *Antichristian*) against all that have opposed it, & gained his blood and treasure, that he hath killed, slain, and exercised cruelty toward all that have been contrary or different minded; and though this hath been brought forth by *Antichrist*, as he is the Devil in himself, and in his heart, envy, malice, persecution, and wickedness, yet he hath been used and effected under the cloak of Zeal, Duty and Love, and out of pretence of love to Christ and his Church, and out of pretence of hatred against the contrary. Thus hath *Antichrist* through the Devil, clothed one, as he is in himself, in his own nature, to us and posterity (as he appeared in the world as a *Antichrist* with *Antichristian* as a *Antichrist* as a promoter of Righteousness, and a destroyer of the contrary). With these false covers hath *Antichrist* been clothed and hidden from men, and appeared to be in his world, and in all things, as a good man, a lover of God, and lover of humanity, while in the mean time he hath been deceiving men, and destroying the church, and leading the world to perpetual misery and destruction.

Again, To describe how the Spirit of Antichrist hath in the
 World, that he hath always put the Name of Christ, and the Name
 of his Church; and the pretence of due, to God, and the Natural
 Gospel, Doctrine, Ordinances, Ministry and Worship, upon whatsoever
 false way, feigned Bishop, and deceitful profession that he hath gone
 about to serve, and to maintain the World among men in day, upon
 the most and most deceitful, not of appearance, and the most false,
 feigned, formal, hypocritical, ever hath been in the world, which hath
 been put the Name of Christ, the Church and Worship, upon them;
 and imposed and forced the belief, and practice of such false Wor-
 ship, false Doctrine, and formal majesty, and the name and rule of
 the true Christ, the Doctrine and Worship, and upon pains and penalties
 hath enforced and commanded the belief and practice of such things;
 not as if they were of old Christ, for the most part, but as if they
 were of Christ altogether, and might be believed
 and practised, as by his Name, and under his authority. Thus hath
 been the working of the Spirit of Antichrist, of that man of sin,
 the Antichrist, all the way, he hath concealed and brought
 forth in the world, hath alienated the World from the true Christ
 Doctrine, and all the Christian, Ministers, and people, and against the
 very destroying of the Saints, and all the virtues of faith and charity;
 and all the exercises by Antichrist in the world, hath put all this in the
 Name of Christ, and pretended Christ, for as if it were indeed
 and in the name of him, and from him, which is denied, and hath
 been contrary to the true Christ, and denied his will and obey him:
 Thus hath Antichrist the Devil been clothed with false names, and
 deceitful pretences in his working among men, that wicked Spirit hath
 falsely called the greatest of good and virtuous, judicious and true ho-
 nour, righteousness, and deepful dealing, high defiled, good Habitu-
 ary, and virtuous working, and the most cruel and unjust Injustice,
 the oppression of the poor, and the grinding of the faces of the
 meek, hath that Spirit falsely called equal proceedings, justice, and
 according to Law, and the like: Yes, and the persecutions and Mur-
 ders that ever hath been used against the Saints of God in all Gen-
 erations, through what and howsoever, and of the Devil, yet all this
 hath Antichrist deduced to him, to Christ, and for the destroying
 Heretics; and out of Justice and Zeal for God, and such like, yea
 and the most grosse Idolatry, and most deceitful ways of Worship that

other Hereticks set up in the world, have been named after Christ, and pretended to be done in his name, and for his glory, and for such, so that neither hath Antichrist been in the world, and walked and wrought among the sons of men, in deceiving of them, that he hath used, and taken upon him the very Name of Christ; and all his evil works of iniquity of all kinds; which he put the Name and Honour of Christ upon them, and so deceived the World by his false wayes, worship, doctrines and persecutions, through covering these things with the Name of Christ; and pretending his honour and exaltation, whereas his own true property and nature is to kill Christ, and gain say him. And this indeed is Antichrist, who under colour and pretence of worshipping and honoring Christ, doth seek to slay him. This is that Fox, crafty and deceitful, that Man of Sin that hath been revealed; that Antichrist, the wicked one, that hath deceived the world for many Ages; but the Lord is now discovering him, and displaying him by the breach of his mouth, and by the brightness of his coming, according to the faithful promise of God in his Servants; and Antichrist shall be discovered and destroyed: The Day of the Lord is at hand upon him.

So Again, it hath been the way of Antichrist, that he might the better deceive the world, to transform himself into the likeness of the best way and strictest profession of Religion, and so to remove from one way and form unto another, as I said before, that he might the better deceive many, according as Paul writ, 2 Cor. 11. 14. For such are false Apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the Apostles of Christ; and no marvel, for he himself is transformed into an Angel of Light, by which it is plain that Antichrist did things with himself, and now is from one way to another, even till he appeared as an Angel of Light, and in the very way and form of the Minister of Righteousness, thinking of himself to work and transform himself in the name of the Apostles, and when he came this day in all times and ages, for it hath been his manner and way, when he could no longer awe himself, nor be satisfied with a way of Worship and Religion in which he hath sometimes dwelt and walked; but that his next step, was to transform himself into another, and be feared as he appeared unto many by the Light of the Lord shining amongst them, then he hath transformed into another like-

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left, and removed his creature and performing into another form
and appearance, it may be said the only way for the world to profit
in and practice of it) in which sometime the Devil hath made him
walked, and there hath he dwelt, deceiving the world by his new form
and appearance, and ~~reveling~~ ^{revealing} his wickedness, cruelties and perfidies
out, in some new way, having quitted the last form in which he dwelt
because he was there too publicly seen and discovered. And now
in his new likeness into which he is transformed, he copied the ex-
ample of ~~Satan~~ ^{Satan}, they did such things, and held such Doctrines, and
performed such practices as now he is found in, and this is the De-
vil sometime to Christ, he pleaded Scripture against him: And thus
Antichrist can change himself into divers appearances, that he may
deceive men: Well, but and if he be again discovered, and his cru-
elties and wickedness made appear in his last and worst form, he can
transform again into a more strict way, and a more performance, even
into an Angel of Light, as if he were indeed the true Christ, and
were in the Truth altogether, and no man needed to doubt of the
truth of his way, and then under that form being covered with more
zeal then ever, with more pretence of duty to God then before, he
blinds the world, and deceives them, and leads them to perdition: And
though changeable in his appearance, yet is he himself Antichrist
still, in his own proper nature, a Murderer, Rapinor, and a Fountain
of Mischief and Evil. The truth of this is plain if it be consider-
ed throughout the course of Scripture in ~~several~~ ^{several} parts, and
transformations of time: as in the Prophecy of ~~old~~ ^{old} this Spirit
(which is no other but the Devil) sometimes appeared in ~~old~~ ^{old} form,
and persecuted the Prophets, reproached them, and withstood them,
and imprisoned them, and killed them: And sometimes he used the
same spirit transformed in self into the way of the Prophets, and
acted by some deceivers and false prophets in the same words and
practices, which the true Prophets had said and done: and so the
true Prophets used their tongues, and said, The Lord said in the
false Prophets (in whom the Devil hath transformed) they used their
tongues, and said, The Lord said in ~~false~~ ^{false}, when God had not spoken
to them: So here was this Spirit of Antichrist changing and trans-
forming himself, that he might the better deceive. Also, in the
days of Christ and his Apostles, the Devil and Antichrist ap-
peared

peered against them; and persecuted them; and killed them; and
 used cruelty and injustice towards them; and (as before I said)
 this was done to Christ and his Apostles, by the wicked Jews, under
 colour and pretence of love to their God, and zeal for their Law; and
 for the honor of their Ordinances and Priesthood, which they suppo-
 sed Christ and his Apostles made void. Which shews, that the Devil
 and Antichrist appears in the world as a good man, as a lover of
 God, and his Laws, and the like. Well, but though the curious
 men, and wicked persons, (through the spirit of the Devil) did
 for some time oppose, gainsay, and persecute Christ and his Ap-
 stles, yet the same Spirit (possibly some of the same persons) trans-
 formed into the profession of Christ, and into the profession of the
 words and works of Him and his Apostles: For we find curious
 men, and wicked men, such as had persecuted Christ, and kil-
 led him, were gotten to preach him in words, and had got-
 ten and taken upon them the Form of Christ's Doctrine, and
 preached him out of Envy, and for self-ends; and the like: So
 that we plain. The same Spirit that sometime opposed and perse-
 cuted the Prophets, Christ and his Apostles, other times was trans-
 formed into the profession of the Prophets, Christ, and his Apo-
 stles words: And this is the way of Antichrist, to deceive men
 upon Earth, and to lead them to perdition: For when the Devil
 and Antichrist perceives that his Envy, Malice and Cruelty, can-
 not prevail to subdue and keep under the Way and Truth of
 Christ Jesus, as it appears in the world, then he transforms into
 the likeness and formal appearance of the way of the Lord, and
 his Truth, and when the Devil cannot kill Christ so, but that
 Christ will rise again, appear, and live for ever, contrary to all the
 malice and vanity of the Devil, then (rather than he will
 submit to be no more) he will transform himself, and take
 upon him the Name of Christ; of his Church and City, and
 profess him in words, and seem a Friend to Christ and his King-
 dom: And this he doth, that he may live still in the world, and
 by deviousness beguile the sons of men into perpetual destru-
 ction. And

And the very work of *Satan* this day in the world, is to deceive, beguile, seduce and bewitch the world and all mankind, in his onely work and calling, as I may say, to deceive, is his nature and property to work deceitfully; and thus it ever was with him, it hath been his property and his work in all ages, and in every age since the beginning of the world, to deceive and beguile, to lead men from God, and to lead them into perdition; this I say hath ever been his work in the world, and by the means aforesaid, (to wit) by transforming and changing himself into the likeness of righteousness and verity, and putting the presence of godliness, virtue and holiness upon his actions and doings, though never so evil and unrighteous, he hath always, I say, by this means, and in this way deceived the world, by appearing as a Saint, as a well-doer, as an angel of Light, pretending wisdom, righteousness and virtue, and coloring his deeds thereby, as is proved in the case of the first deceiving of Eve; What said Satan to the Woman? Not that I am such a one, and do intend to deceive thee with falsity; but, Thou shalt be as God; Thou shalt be wise of thy self, and know, and be, and do as God: Here was a fair pretence, by which he deceived the Woman, And the false Prophets, and false Apostles in the days of old, did not deceive the world into an absolute denial of God, and Christ, and Truth, but did deceive them into the false Profession of the same, holding out the form of godliness without the power, and by sacred words, and good speeches, did deceive the hearts of the simple; and by false Doctrine, and Ordinances, and Form of Religion, did the Antichrist deceive the World in dayes past, as he doth at this day: For if he did appear to be as he is in his in his own name and property, a Devil, Deceiver, and wicked one, a Leader to Perdition and Destruction, and should vindicate himself as such, and cease and cease people as such; then none would believe him, nor follow his ways, for none would willingly be destroyed. But he appears not as such in the world, but always transform himself into the likeness of God and Goodness, still pretending the same: And by this means is he more capable to deceive mankind; for he cannot so readily deceive and lead men to perdition in his own proper Name, if he appear

as he is such: But therefore he appears contrary to what his own nature is, and transforms himself. And thus doth Antichrist deceive the Christian World (so called) at this day, even by his false wayes of Religion, false Worship, false Doctrine, false Humility, false Faith, and false Church, pretending zeal and sanctity, and such like: Herein and hereby (generally) doth Antichrist that Man of Sin, deceive and beguile the World unto perdition and destruction. Oh! how many thousands of Peoples, of Nations and Countreys, are at this day deceived on this wise, thinking they are in the truth, and true way of Religion, Faith and Worship, professing and performing these things with much zeal, as if they were indeed the wayes and Ordinaunces of Christ, whereas they are but false, feigned, formal, and of Antichrist, and deceivable to the souls of men, even shew without substance, forms without life and power, of Antichrist, and not of the true Christ. And thus, and after this manner, with the very likeness of Righteousness, and appearance of Godliness, and profession of Faith and duty to God, hath Antichrist deceived the world, and doth at this day delude Nations, to the perdition of thousands: And Antichrist doth not generally deceive men in his works and appearance as he is in his own proper Nature; but in his appearance and works transformed and changed into another likeness, even into the likeness of truth and righteousness: By this means and way Satan, Antichrist, and that Man of Sin, doth delude and deceive the Nations of the world.

10. What the Works of Antichrist are, by what is said, doth partly appear: His Works are all deceivableness, to deceive and delude the world, to lead mankind captive in the wayes of sin and death, unto the destruction of their souls, and to be cruel and hard-hearted, envious, malicious and perverse, a hater and persecutor of goodness and good men, and to murder and work wickedness, to do all evil, and to oppose, gain-say and deny all good: This in general is the work of Antichrist, though as to particulars I now intend not to mention, saving as I have before shewed, to impose upon Conscience in Religious matters, by sinning against and violence, is a main principal work of Antichrist, and to kill and destroy persons on the account of Heresie and Error, and to asperse,

tence and cruel impositions in *Spiritual Cases*, contrary to the *Spirit*
 of *Christ Jesus*. These are *works and ways of Antichrist*, which he
 brings forth in the *World*, as also the promoting of all the *false*
 and *Idolatrous Worshipps*, and *false Church-Governments* in the
World; and in short, every *evil work* and *word* brought forth
 amongst the *sons of men*, are the *Works of the Devil and Anti-*
christ, which he seduceth the *World* into the working and do-
 ing of, and to consider the state of the *World* as it is at this
 day, and how it is deceived into many grievous and abomi-
 nable wayes of *Error*, *Superstitions*, *Idolatry*, and *wickedness*,
 it makes the hearts of the *Righteous* sad and mournful, be-
 cause of the deceivableness of the working of the *Mystery of*
Iniquity, of *Antichrist*, that *Man of Sin* in the *World*, who
 deceiveth *Man-kind* with the appearance and shew of *godliness*,
 and leads the *Children of Men* in the ways of *Ignorance*, *Dark-*
n
ess, and *Error*, yet holds them under a *false persuasion* of
safety and *security*, as if they were in the *right way*, and
 walked in the *paths of Holiness*, when indeed and in truth
 they are *degraded* and *deceived*, and high unto the *paths of*
Perdition. Oh! how hath *Antichrist* prevailed in these latter
 dayes, since the dayes of the *Apostles*, and deceived the *world*
 with the very *formal profession* and *practice* of such *Doctrines*
 and *Things* as the *Apostles* held and practised in the *Power*
 of *God* in their dayes: But now *Antichrist* he holds the *same*
 in his *false Spirit*, and hath the appearance and likeness of
Righteousness, *Truth*, *Faith* and *Worship*, without the *Power of*
God, even the likeness of the things that the *Apostles* and
Saints held in the *Power of God*: And hereby is the *World*
 deceived, through *Antichrist* hath taught them so plead
Scripture, and prove by *Scripture*, that the *Apostles* did the
 same things, and held the same *Profession*; yet being now
 held and professed out of the *Power of God*, and not in the
 same *Spirit* that the *Apostles* were in, tis but of *Antichrist*,
 and detestable, and leads captive the *souls of men* into *de-*
struction. Oh therefore that the *World* and all that dwell there-
 in, would consider the danger of that *deceivable Spirit* of *Anti-*
christ, and turn he *deceivable* *man-kind*, and would turn from

him, and forsake the *ways* and *works* of *Antichrist*, that they may be *saved*, and not *destroyed*. Oh! all ye called *Christians*, in time to consider what *spirit* ye are of, and what *spirit* leads you, and how ye may escape his *delusions*, for the *Day* of the *Lord* is come, and he is gathering *People* out of the *ways* of *Antichrist*, and setting them free from his *cruel Bands*, to serve the *Lord* in *Liberty* and *Freedom* of the *Spirit* of *Christ Jesus*, and blessed are all they that witness this, where *Christ* reigns, and *Antichrist* is subdued with his *works* and *fruits*, and discovered and destroyed by the *Spirit* of the *Lord*, and the *brightness* of his *Coming*, who comes to judge the *World* in *Righteousness* and *Truth*.

xi. These things are said in general of *Antichrist*; Now it remains to be shewed, *What* the *Government* of *Antichrist* is in it self, and *where* it is in being, and *what* the *Subjects* of his *Kingdom* are.

That *Antichrist* the *Man* of *Sin* hath a *Government*, a *Kingdom*, a *Power*, an *Authority*, a *Rule* and a *Dominion* which is indeed his *Government*, this is not doubtful to any, but acknowledged by all, but what this *Kingdom* and *Government* is, many are ignorant. Now the *Kingdom* and *Government* of *Antichrist* is not the *Government* and *Authority* of some particular man, in some particular *Country* and *Nation* upon *Earth*, distinct from all other *Persons* and *Nations*, as if such a particular *visible Kingdom* and *Authority*, were *Antichrist's Government*, and none besides: But the *Authority*, *Kingdom* and *Government* of *Antichrist* is more *invisible*, more *hidden*, as if were more *spiritual* and *undiscernable* unto the *souls* of men, than any *visible*, *outward Kingdom* is: And indeed, the *Kingdom* of *Antichrist* is the *Authority* and *Power* of *Spiritual Wickedness*, of *spiritual*, *invisible Iniquity*, of the *Rule* and *Dominion* of the *Son* of *Perdition*, of the *Man* of *Sin*, exercised in the *hearts* and *Spirits* of all *wickedly men*: This is the *Kingdom* and *Government* of *Antichrist*, an *authority* of *spiritual wickedness*, a *Power* of the *Mysterie* of *Iniquity*, and of *invisible pre-ailing* of the *Son* of *Perdition* in, and over the *hearts* of the *sons* of *men*, not only of one person, or in one *Nation* or *Kingdom* of the *World*, but in all *sinful persons*, and over all *Nations* of the *Earth*, (*Antichrist's Government* is such throughout *King-*

doms of this world; even a Spiritual Power of Riches, of Dominion and authority of the *Mysterie of Iniquity*, ruling and reigning in the hearts of many men, even of all sinful men, of all unjust men, of all unconverted men through all Nations in the World: So that it may not be truly said, that Antichrist's Kingdom and Government is onely the particular authority of any particular man, in a particular Nation of the Earth, and all others (Men and Nations) are free; but it is (as I have said) the Authority, Power and Rule of the Spirit of Wickedness, of the *Mysterie of Iniquity*, in the hearts of all evil men, in all Nations through the World. And this is truly the Kingdom of Antichrist in it self.

12. This Government is placed and set up, and chiefly the place and being of it, is (not onely in all Nations at large, but) in the hearts, even in particular hearts of the sons of men, in the heart and inward parts of man, is the place where Antichrist's Government is; his authority, power and dominion, is in the hearts of the ungodly, in the inward parts of transgressors; in the heart Antichrist (that Man of Sin) dwells and works, according as it is written, *2 Thess. 2:9, 10* speaking of that man of sin whose coming is after the working of Satan with all lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: His dwelling and working is in them that perish, in the ungodly, in the hypocrites, in all idolaters, in all false worshippers: Thus it is manifest, that the Government of Antichrist is in the heart, not onely of one man in some Nations, but in the hearts of all such men mentioned, in all the Kingdoms of the World, even the *mysterie of iniquity*, the spiritual wickedness, the authority and power of that Spirit that is against Christ, and contrary to him (which is the Rule, Kingdom and Government of Antichrist) dwells and works in the hearts of the sons of men, even like as Christ Jesus dwells and walks in his Saints, as it is written, so accordingly doth Antichrist dwell and walk in all that are the Subjects of his Kingdom: Yet notwithstanding, the Government of Antichrist is in the hearts of men, originally there, as having got dominion and power over the seed of God, and placed it self in the heart, which is its seat, and where Christ should reign, yet the Government of Antichrist is not so spiritual, so hidden and invisible in the heart, but that it appears outwardly and visibly in the actions and fruits of men;

men; so that the outward actions and works of men are leavened and fasted with the Spirit of Antichrist, and his Government appears visible in Antichristian ways and works brought forth by men; the sinfulness of men, the hypocrites of men, the idolatries of men, and the false principles and doctrines of men; which appear visibly, are the works of Antichrist, and his Government stands in these things; in these works he governs men, and to the doing of them he leads and rules men by his Authority and Power, which is in the hearts of men. And thus Antichrist's Government appears visible and outward, and is in the outward actions and works of men to be seen in the world, as well as the working of his Power and Authority is in the heart, inwardly.

And also Antichrist's Government is extended not onely, as first, dwelling and working in the hearts of the ungodly; nor secondly, as over the works of men particularly; but over the Governments of many Nations and Countreys in general; is Antichrist's Power and Rule extended; so that the Governments of the world are leavened and rusted with Antichristian Power and Authority in many Nations, even the Spirit of Antichrist hath possessed many hearts, many works; and not onely so, but many Governments amongst men; and this hath appeared and broken forth visible in all the works of unrighteousness, injustice, oppressions and persecutions, brought forth in worldly Governments; for so much as hath been brought forth in any Government, in any Nation, at any time, of unrighteousness, injustice, oppression, idolatry, false worship and persecutions, and of any other evils, even so much of Antichrist's Kingdom, Government and Power, hath been in that Kingdom and Government; and that Kingdom and Government wheresoever, in what Nation and Countrey soever, hath been Antichristian, even in so much, and by so much as Injustice, Wickedness, Cruelty, Persecution, or any acts of sin and wickedness have been, or are brought forth into action in that Government. And thus it is manifest what, and where Antichrist's Government is: Now I shall briefly shew who the subjects of his Kingdom are.

1. All the ungodly, unrighteous, and unconverted persons in general throughout the world, are the Subjects of Antichrist's Kingdom, all the sons of fallen Adam, in transgression, all that are in the first birth,

birth, in *doctrines*, in the *religion*, and *superstitions* find in God; even all that are *wicked*, and *do wickedly*, that are in this *Enemy* against *Christ*, and *unbely*, *unsanctified*, and *unregenerate*, these are all of *Antichrist's Kingdom*, *subjects* of it, and *servants* to it; and it *rules* in them, and *over* them, and *Antichrist* is their *King* in all these *wicked ways*, and in this *their present state* and *condition*.

2. All *Hypocrites*, that *profess* God in *words*, and in *works* deny him, that make a *shew* of *Religion* and *Worship*, when their *hearts* are far from the *Lord*, that with their *mouthe* *profess* much *love* to God, and with their *lips* *honor* him, but are *departed* from his *feet*, and stand not in his *Counsel*, all such are *subjects* of the *government* of *Antichrist*, even all *false-hearted*, *disssembling* *Hypocrites*, that *profess* more of God, then they know of him by the *operation* of his *Spirit*; that have an *outward conformity* in *appearance*, of *worship*, and *duty* to God-wards, and their *hearts* are not *conformed* to the *Power* of God, by his *Spirit*; all such are of the *Government* of *Antichrist*, and his *Kingdom* and *Power* dwells in them, and they are under the *Domination* thereof.

3. All *Idolaters*, *false-worshippers*, *Hereticks*, and *erroneous* persons; such as *cry up* Church and *Ministry*, and *profess* *Faith* and *Godliness*, and yet are not *guided* by the *Spirit of Christ*, nor *led* of it into all *Truth*, these are *subjects* of the *forelaid Government* of *Antichrist*; even all they that are *sensually minded*, and have not the *Spirit of Christ* *guiding* them in the *way* of *righteousness* and *truth*, who are not *converted* and *born again*, and *renewed* into the *image* and *likeness* of *Christ Jesus*; and yet *practices* *holiness*, and *duty* to God-wards in *outward appearance*, and are in the *profession* of the *words* of *Christ* and his *Prophets* and *Apostles*, but have not the *same spirit* and *power* of the *Lord Jesus Christ* as the *Prophets* and *Apostles* had, these are covered with *sheep-cloathing*, and *profess* *Christ*, and his *words*, but are against *Christ*, and *contrary* to Him in *kind* and *nature*; and all such are of the *Government* of *Antichrist*; and hee *governs* them, and *rules* over them.

4. All *Back-sliders*, and them that have *forsoaken* the *right way* of the *Lord*, all that are *turned* against the *Truth* of God which once they *knew* and *believed*, and were *convinced* of, and some-
times

times profess; these are the servants of Antichrist's reign and authority; even all the unfaithful and false-hearted, who are traitors to God and men; and unstable and changeable, time-servers and hypocrites, who have denied Christ before men, and turned against him, and against his Saints; such are under Satan's power; and he works in their hearts, and Antichrist deceives them, and they are under his power and dominion, and are subjects of his Government.

03. All persecutors of the Saints, all violent and cruel men, all that persecute such as are contrary-minded to themselves, are of Antichrist, and subjects of his kingdom; even all that kill, and burn, and destroy for difference of Faith and Religion, who themselves profess love to God, and his Way, and yet will persecute others, and destroy them by cruel dealing; and that would not suffer any to live but themselves, and will not do to others as they would be done unto, but hates the Neighbour, and persecutes Brother, and impose upon his Conscience in things against good Conscience, and are violent doers; all such men are Subjects of Antichrist's Kingdom, in all Nations throughout the world. Therefore let all consider, this is the Day of the Lord, God will discover and destroy Antichrist and his Kingdom: Let the wicked and ungodly turn from his evil way, lest God destroy him with perpetual destruction.

Lastly, 'tis the property of such who are subjects of Antichrist's Kingdom, to profess and cry up much of Christ in words, of what he said and did, of his life, of his death; of what he hath been, and what he shall be, and yet to deny the present enjoyment of Christ; to that Antichrist is an enemy; he can well away with it to speak of Christ as a distance, but he cannot bear it if any hold forth a present enjoyment of Christ; that Christ takes away sin, and forgives it, and that his blood cleanseth from it, and that he is the Justifier, and the Redeemer and Saviour; the profession of all this in words from the letter without, and that they are things true in themselves, Antichrist can bear and make a shew of in profession, but if any of the Saints of God do witness these things, and shall testify in the power of the Lord the enjoyment of these things, and that they are at present in this life possessed (so wit) Christ now lives in us, and is come, and his blood hath cleansed from sin, and

and he hath forgiven it, and he hath justified, redeemed and saved; I say if any do witness these things in present enjoyment, and that they are now in this present time witnessed in the Spirit of Christ, and not onely professed from the Letter without, but experienced by the work of God within; Antichrist opposeth this, and gainsaies present enjoyment, and such indeed are subjects of Antichrists Kingdom, who have the profession of Christ in words, but no present enjoyment of him, but wants his nature, and are in the nature contrary to him, and feeds upon reports of things done by him without, and upon the expectations of what he shall do hereafter, and in their present state are without Christ, and are sinners and transgressors against the life of righteousness, unconverted and unregenerated by Christ, all such as these are the subjects of Antichrist his Kingdom.

And as concerning the Rise and Fall of Antichrist, the beginning and ending of his Kingdom, these things in season may be declared, if God permit.

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page 2. line 27. for were read way; and line 28. between ascended upon them and converted, read they were. p. 27. l. 32. for and read and. p. 28. l. 18. for loving read lying; and what else is amiss, let her correct then blame.